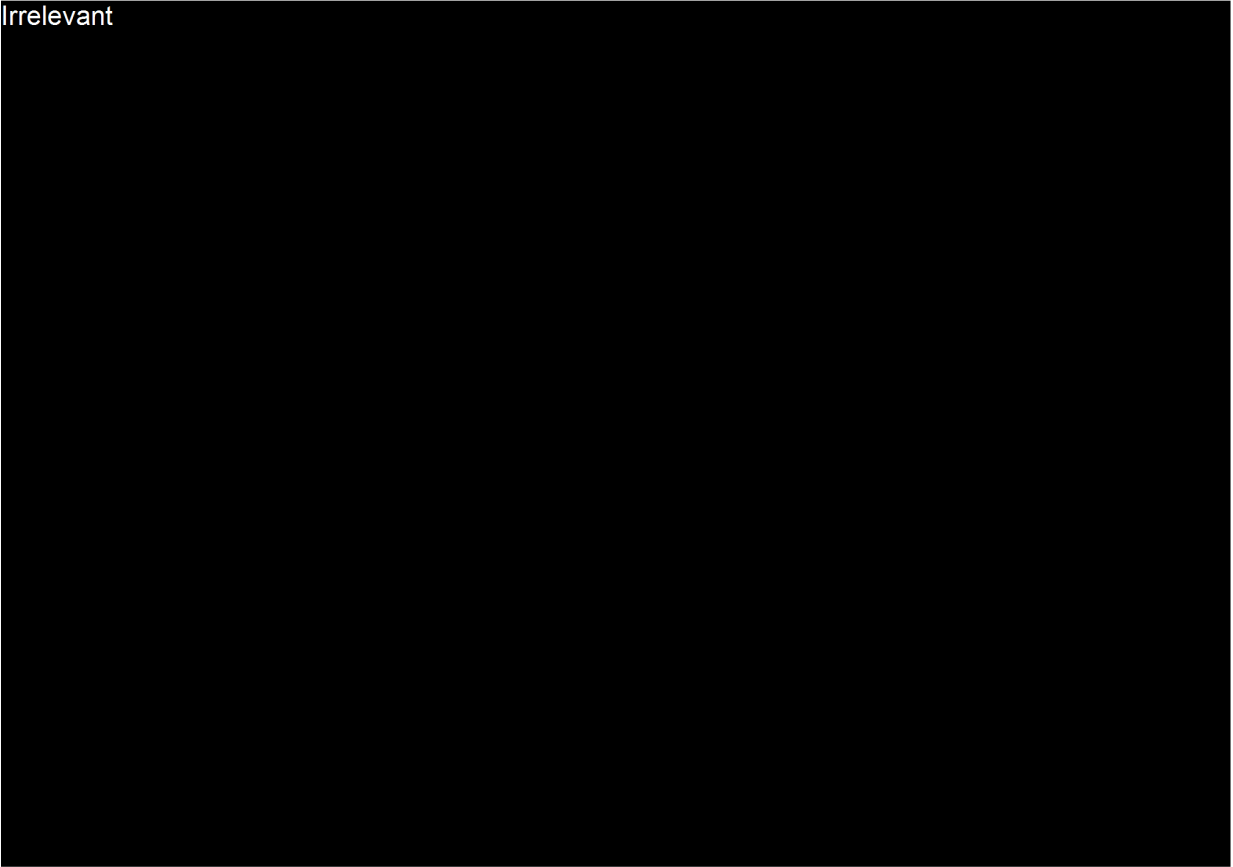


briefing

From: "Power, Mary-Liz" </o=pco-pmo-bnet/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=6919f029a0034a8c8b0bb6c1a61b9cc9-ml_power">
To: "Power, Mary-Liz" <mary-liz.power@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
Date: Mon, 07 Feb 2022 13:29:03 +0000

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COVID-19

There's significant national and international coverage of the trucker convoy and sympathy protests that continued across the country this weekend

- Mayor Watson declared a state of emergency in Ottawa yesterday, describing the protests as the "the most serious emergency our city has ever faced." The local state of emergency allows the city to work more efficiently to manage essential services and make procurement more flexible, but "does little" in terms of legal authority and does not give more power to Ottawa police.
- Premier Ford yesterday called the protest an occupation, and the head of the Ottawa Police Services Board referred to it as an "insurrection." Ford's office confirmed Ottawa has not requested military aid.

- Earlier yesterday, Ottawa police announced they would ramp up enforcement on protesters, handing out tickets and announcing that anyone looking to bring "material aid," like fuel, to protesters could be arrested.
- Structures in place in Ottawa's Confederation Park, including a plywood shack and tents, were removed on Sunday.
- Ottawa Police issued a statement late Sunday saying that seven people had been arrested and more than 100 tickets had been issued. The force said 60 criminal investigations were underway, mostly for mischief, theft, hate crimes and property damage.
- An Ontario court is scheduled to hear arguments in a proposed multi-million-dollar class-action lawsuit by Ottawa residents who want protesters to stop honking their horns. Their lawyer, Paul Champ, says the honking is causing irreparable harm because of how loud and prolonged it has been.
- A coalition of business improvement areas in central Ottawa said it surveyed more than 200 owners in the city's core, and found that 75 per cent have lost revenue because of the protest, and 48 per cent have closed owing to safety concerns. They're calling on the federal government to support their revenue losses.
- Speaking about the influence of foreign interference with funding of this convoy, former US Ambassador to Canada Bruce Heyman tweeted yesterday that Canada is unfortunately experiencing radical US politicians involving themselves in Canadian domestic issues. He also said that Trump and his followers are a threat not just to the US but to all democracies.
- Turning now to Coutts in Alberta, Mounties announced they're investigating several protesters who are demonstrating in an unlawful manner. Two separate roadblocks are ongoing in the area, one alongside the village of Coutts at the border and another about 15 kilometres up Highway 4 near Milk River.
- In Quebec City, Radio Canada reports that while all protesters have left the parliamentary precinct by the end of the day, they intend to return in 2 weeks. Speaking about this weekend's protests, Premier Legault commended the exemplary work of the SPVQ and the Surete du Quebec.
- (CP) The Saskatchewan legislature closed on Friday in advance of a demonstration expected on Saturday. Premier Scott Moe said on Friday that while Canadians have the right to protest peacefully, "they need to be doing so within the confines of the laws that are there."
- (CP) In Winnipeg, Some downtown businesses say they lost customers Friday morning due to the protest near the Manitoba Legislature. MB premier Stephanson said the protests were peaceful.
- The mayor of Coutts, Jim Willett, says he decided to cross the divide and meet with those who have been disrupting traffic there for nearly a week. Willett says he didn't find anger. Just a sense of waiting.
- Crowdfunding site GoFundMe will reimburse or redirect to charities the vast majority of the more than \$10M raised by demonstrators protesting COVID-19 measures in Ottawa, saying the event has become an occupation.
- Some reporters noted you haven't made any recent comments about the situation, and that your schedule today involves private meetings.

iPolitics is reporting that made-in-ontario antiviral Molnupiravir treatments for up to hundreds of thousands of COVID-19 patients are sitting in storage, while Merck and Health Canada blame each other for the length of time it's taking to review the drug.

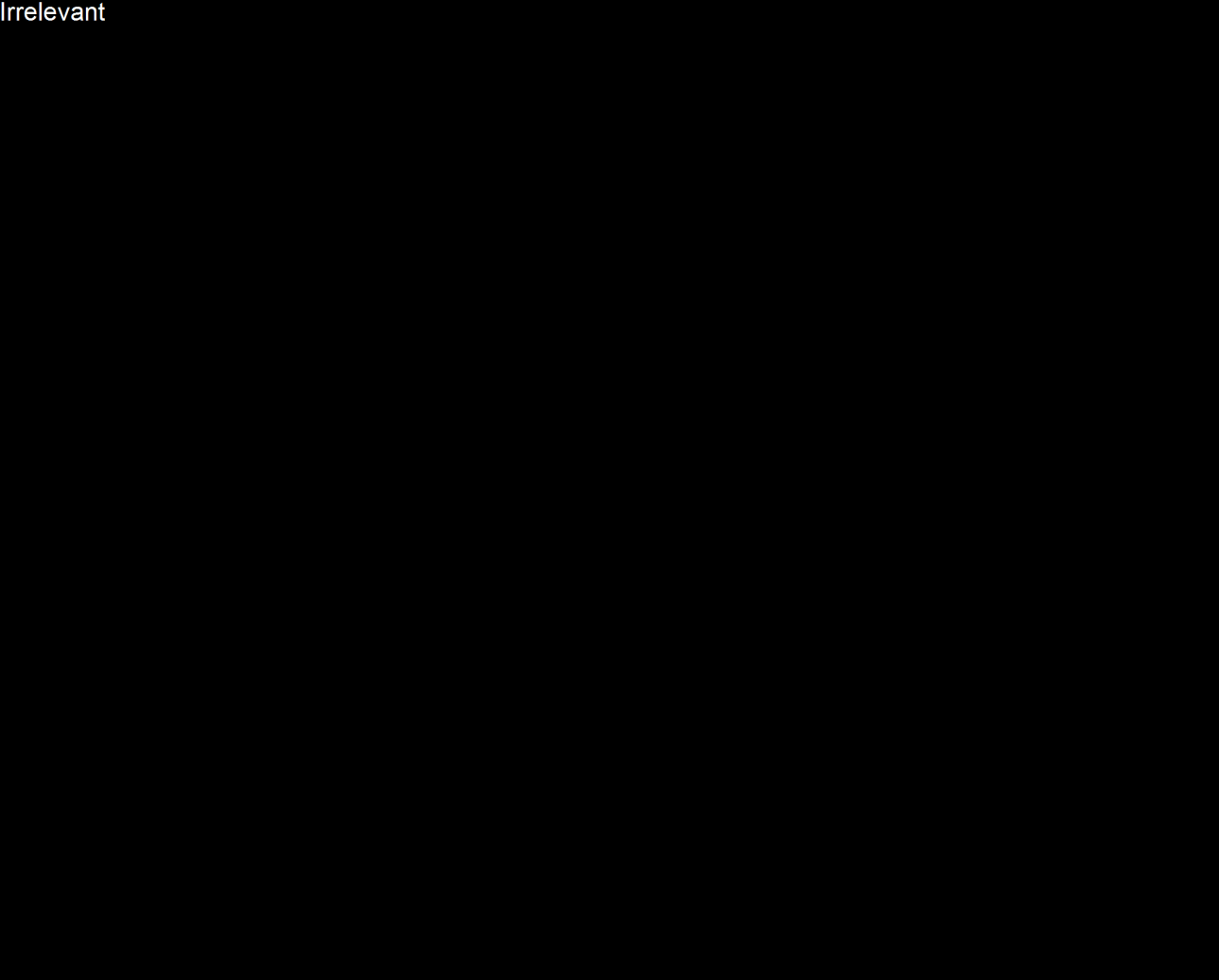
- Health Canada says Merck is continuing to provide information to inform their decision, while Merck sustains they submitted the final wave of the rolling submission for its investigational oral antiviral to Health Canada at the end of 2021.

Domestic news

Pierre Poilievre this weekend entered the Conservative leadership. In a nearly three minute long video posted to Twitter, he says he's running for Prime Minister, decries the loss of personal freedom on many fronts and refers to support for truckers.

- Since his announcement, several current and former conservative MPs have endorsed him, including John Baird.

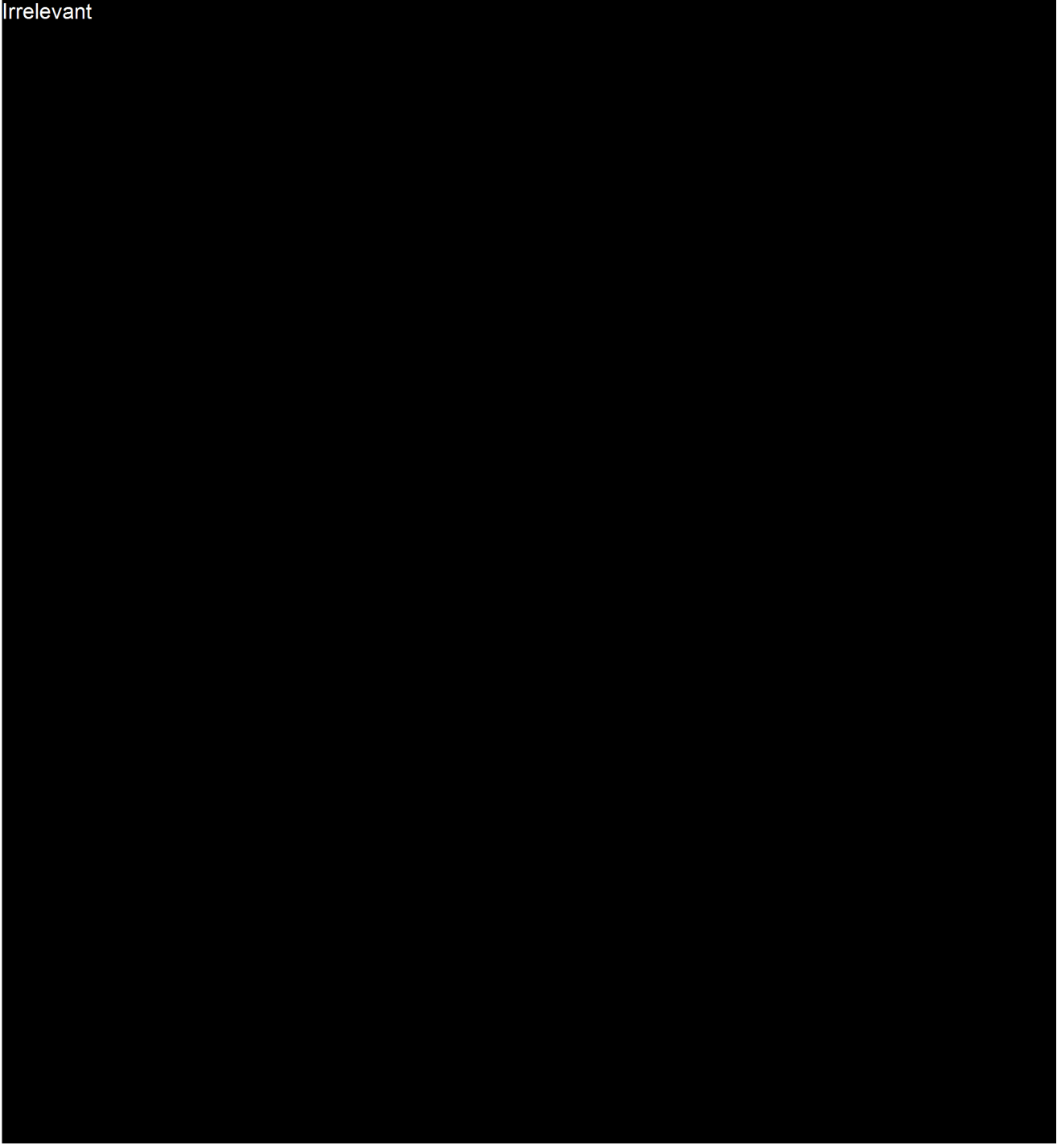
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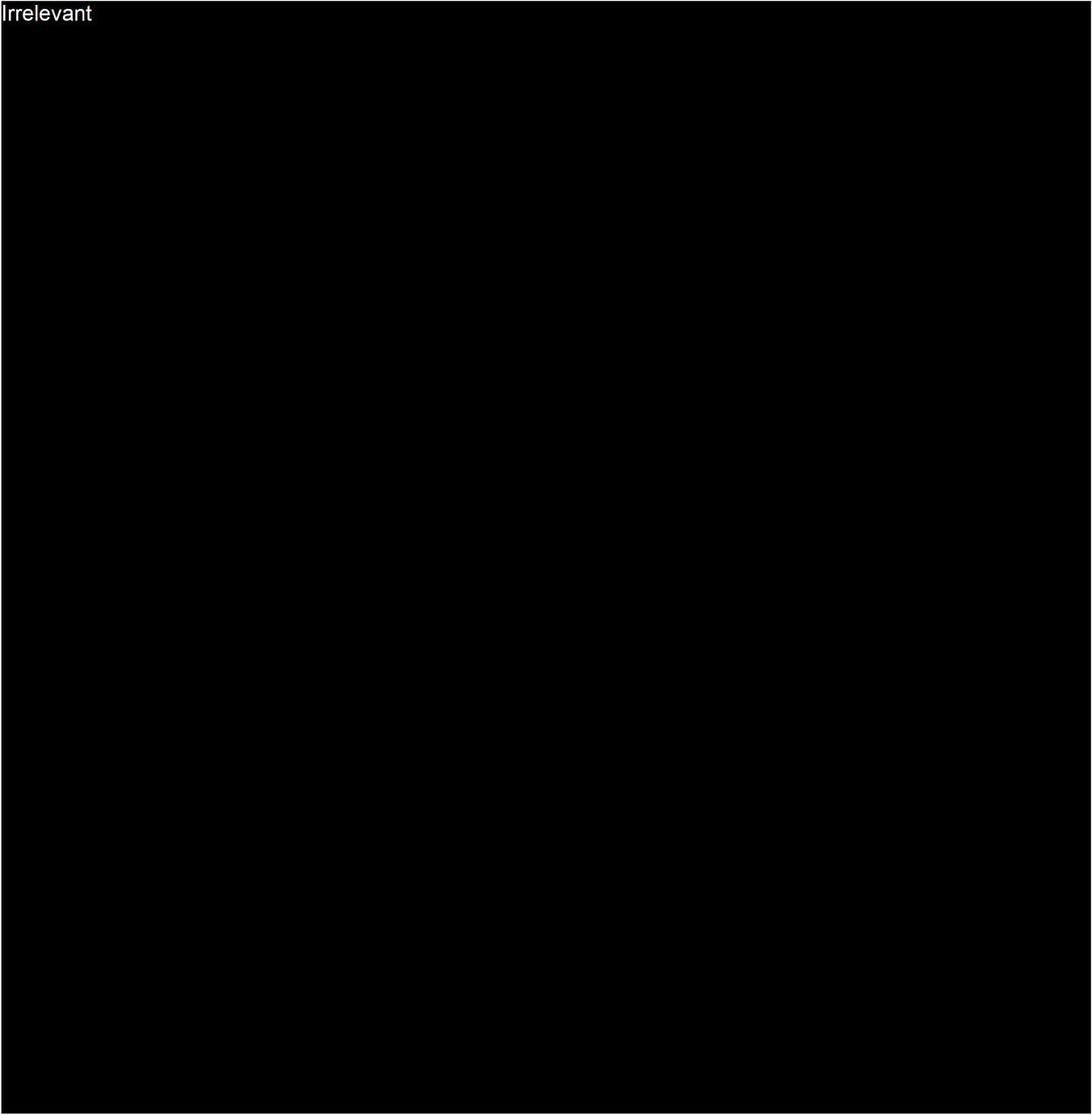
In an interview with CTV, Jagmeet Singh advocated for the government to ban 3 different hate symbols which he says are being used to mobilize movements.

- Peter Julien's PMB, Bill C-229, would prohibit the "display or sale" of symbols such as the Nazi swastika, the Ku Klux Klan's insignia, and the Confederate flag.
- If the legislation passes, anyone who is found to have contravened the law could face a prison sentence of a maximum of two years. It would amend Section 319 of the Criminal Code, which already bans the public incitement of hatred and the wilful promotion of hatred.
- In the same interview, Singh said both the Conservatives and the Liberals are treating the escalating convoy tensions as a "game" to score political points.

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Mary-Liz Power (she/her/elle)
Issues Advisor | Conseillère en gestion des enjeux
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